

Appl. No. 10/065,548
Amendment dated March 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A dosage-scaled beverage sweetener utensil, comprising:

an immersion portion configured to have width substantially greater than thickness, thereby defining a broad and thin shaped first end;

a handle portion forming a second end and connected to said immersion portion, forming a unitary structure therewith; and

wherein said immersion portion and handle portion are formed of a pre-selected quantity of cooked-and-formed raw cane sugar containing interstitial point defects toughening the utensil structure and enabling structural integrity in the broad and thin shape of said immersion portion.

2. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion has a ratio of width to thickness in the range from 4:1 to 20:1.

3. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion is configured such that the ratio of surface area to volume is in the range from 15-30 sq. in. per cubic inch.

4. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion and handle portion are of substantially equal thickness.

5. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said handle portion is of a width no less than one-half the width of said immersion portion.

6. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion and handle portion consist of approximately 70% by weight raw cane sugar.

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7. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said pre-selected quantity of raw cane sugar is a quantity sufficient to provide sweetness equivalent to no more than two teaspoons (10 ml) of refined, granulated sugar.

8. (Original) The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said pre-selected quantity of raw cane sugar is a quantity sufficient to provide sweetness equivalent to no more than one teaspoon (5 ml) of refined, granulated sugar.

9. (withdrawn) A method of forming a dosage-scaled beverage sweetener utensil, comprising:

first, cooking raw cane sugar to form a homogeneous mass;

second, shaping said mass into a product stream;

third, dividing the product stream into sub-units of pre-selected size;

fourth, forming a sub-unit into a sweetener utensil; and

fifth, packaging the sweetener utensil in an atmosphere of reduced oxygen content.

10. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of dividing the product stream into sub-units of pre-selected size comprises:

forming the product stream into sub-units containing a quantity of raw cane sugar equivalent in sweetness to refined sugar of no more than two teaspoons (10 ml) in volume.

11. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of forming a sub-unit into a sweetener utensil comprises:

forming an immersion end and a handle end, wherein the handle end is no more than one-half the width of the immersion end, and the immersion end and handle end are of equal thickness.

12. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said packaging step comprises:

packaging the sweetener utensil in a contained atmosphere of reduced oxygen content relative to atmosphere.